

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SERVICES & MEETINGS

Bible Study – Wednesday – 10:00 to 11:30 AM

Craft Night - Wednesday – 7:00 PM

Pet Fest – October 3 – 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Sunday Morning Worship Service – October 4 – 9:00 AM

Sunday School – October 4 – 10:15 AM

Vince's Cheese Steak Sale – October 13 – 11:30 AM to 6:30 PM



WORSHIP STATISTICS

9/20/26

In Person Attendance – 38

Virtual Attendance (YouTube Views) –



THANK YOU TO THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Greeter: Luisa Follweiler & Shirley Wessner

Lector: Ruthann Lutz

Ushers:

Cantor:



Pastor: Rev. Robert B. Peiffer, Ph.D.

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Organist/Choir Director/Chime Choir Director –

LeAnne Zettlemoyer

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18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

9:00 AM



*Thank you for worshipping with us. Our songs of
praise were more meaningful because your
voice joined with ours!
Please, come again!*

Good Morning.

We would like to welcome you to New Bethel to worship with our church family. Visitors know that it is our privilege to have you with us this morning. Please come back again soon. Upon exiting the church, take a moment to sign our Guest Register at the front doors.

SILENT MEDITATION PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God: in Jesus Christ, true God from true God, you emptied yourself to share our life, taking human form and walking among us as a servant. By your Holy Spirit, give us the mind of Christ, that we may surrender our pride, use our strength in service, and pour out our lives in love for you and our neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER NOTES: In your conversation with GOD this morning, give thanks to Him for the many blessings He has given us and ask His blessings for those more unfortunate than we are.

"Those who know Jesus are never alone."



ORDER OF WORSHIP



THE PRELUDE

(^ = PLEASE STAND, AS YOU ARE ABLE)

Worship Reminder: Congregational responses are to be read slowly and expressively. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^CALL TO WORSHIP:

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

Christ Jesus was in the form of God, yet emptied himself, taking the form of a servant.

In Christ, God emptied Godself to share our life.

Therefore God exalted him and gave him the name above every name.

We bow before him and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Come, let us worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

One God, whose glory is revealed in self-giving love. Amen.

^PRAISE HYMNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

PASTOR: Let us confess the ways in which we have resisted the self-giving love revealed in Jesus Christ.

Silence may be kept.

ALL: ***Most merciful God, we confess that we have not shared the mind of Christ. Christ emptied himself, but we have clung to status, recognition, and control. Christ took the form of a servant, but we have expected others to serve us. Christ entered human vulnerability, but we have withdrawn from those who suffer. Christ gave himself in love, but we have protected our comfort and withheld ourselves from our neighbors.***

Forgive us, Lord. Empty us of pride, fear, and self-interest. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and make our lives an offering of humble, courageous, and self-giving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

PASTOR: Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ emptied Godself to share our life, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit form in you the mind of Christ.

People: ***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

HEARING GOD'S WORD (OUR LESSONS FOR TODAY)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 40: 21-31

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
and spreads them like a tent to live in,

²³ who brings princes to naught
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom, then, will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and assert, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

RESPONSE: "Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, Oh God"

Shepherd me, O God, Beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, From death into life.

EPISTLE LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 2: 5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly

and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

^GLORIA PATRI: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end." Amen.

^GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 1: 1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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^THE NICENE CREED: *We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and*

unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HOMILY (SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN)

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Robert B. Peiffer, Ph.D.

"The Nicene Creed"

^HYMN – No. 216

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

All: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen*

^RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION:

Go forth with the mind of Christ.

We will surrender our pride and use our strength to serve.

Go forth in the love of Christ, who emptied himself to share our life.

As Christ gave himself for us, we will give ourselves in love.

Go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit. May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

In Christ, God emptied Godself to share our life. We also will take the form of servants. Amen.

^CLOSING HYMN – No. 710

"We Are Called To Be God's People"

^WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

^POSTLUDE



DURING THE WEEK PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS:

Dick Albright, Michael Aulenbach, Carla Bartholomew, Sandra Bauscher, Pastor Dave Blitch, Sarah Burns, Brenda Derr, Jay Drey, Donna Greenawalt, Sharon (Henry) Griffiths, Tim Haring, Felicity Herring, Tiffany Hoch, Casey Hoffman, Ernie Kanas, Bethany Keck, Emily Keck, Blair Keim, Cindy Keiser, Deb Kenney, Davis Knauer, Emma Laigaie, Peggy Light, George Megerle, Mary Beth Mogus, Andy Miller, Diane Miller, Bonnie Moll, Heather Munsey, Lloyd Pettit, Steve Schwoyer, Kevin Smith, Melanie Wessner, Cassie Wolfe, Joanne Zawada-Paskoff, Reuben Zettlemoyer, Susan Zettlemoyer, and Ben Ziehmer.

THOSE WHO ARE SHUT INS:

Forrest Graff, Pat Graff, Michael Kirkhoff, Nancy Kleinsmith, Sandy Long, Lester Lutz, Christie Ryan, Delano and Sandra Schucker.

THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY:

Cooper Dunn, Amanda Kertsmar and Trista Fulmer-Smith.

THOSE WHO MOURN:

September 18, Roma Loch passed away. Roma was the sister of Shirley Wessner and our prayers go out to Shirley and the rest of Roma's family during this time.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning, we continue our worship series "What We Believe." The series will investigate the two questions – What do we believe? And What kind of congregation do our beliefs invite us to become? Today we are looking at the Nicene Creed. Next week as we continue the series and will be looking at the ELCA Mission Statement and what our Lutheran heritage calls us out to be and to do.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: The Keyston Conference of the UCC is offering a training opportunity – Lay Person Training for Care Visitation and Home Communion. It will be held virtually on September 29 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. It is a training event designed to equip lay leaders to be involved in a very meaningful ministry of the church – visiting members in institutions and homes and extend to them the sacrament of Holy Communion. New Bethel has been registered by Pastor Bob for this workshop and will be hosting a watch party at New Bethel when it goes live. Come and join with others to watch this training or if you aren't able to come to the church and you are interested, just go to the following website <https://share.google/iH2eP5gIzfzj30LGk> to register. If you have questions, speak to Pastor Bob.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: The new Congregational Directory is available – pick up your copy today! If you notice you or your family are not listed in the directory it could just be that a release was not signed when you sent in your information. We cannot put your information in without the release. See the Pastor to get a release signed. A newer edition of the directory with changes and corrections will be put out in the near future.

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS: The large print Our Daily Bread Devotionals are here. If you were looking for one, pick up your copy today!

PET FEST: October 3 is the date of our Pet Fest celebration. It will be held from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There will be a Blessing of the Pets, plans for a Petting Zoo, representatives from Hawk Mountain, pet related vendors and more. Come, even if you don't have a pet, and enjoy the fun. Pet food donations will be accepted and are welcome. Any donations will benefit Friend, Inc.'s Pet Pantry.

There is a poster in the narthex for donations of food items. If you would like to help out by donating check it out and sign up for an item.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Join us following worship for our coffee fellowship. Enjoy the coffee and snacks and the fellowship that comes with it. If you would like to bring snacks and/or drinks for any given Sunday there is a sign-up sheet at the door to the choir room. You may also sign up to help set up before worship or clean up following coffee fellowship. Paper products and coffee are provided.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

First mark your calendar for **October 13 and Vince's Cheese Steaks.** Vince's food truck will be set up at the Kempton Fire Company from 11:30 AM to 6:30 PM. This is to benefit our local mission fund.

The next date to mark is Thursday **October 24 for the Shared Abundance Community Meal.** This is a free meal open to all community members. It will run from 5:00 to 6:30 PM at New Jerusalem Zion UCC, 1456 Krumsville Rd., Krumsville (across from the Greenwich Elementary School). It is hosted by the Local Shared Outreach Group of Mount Zion Lutheran, Friedens Lutheran and New Jerusalem UCC Churches. Information needed – just call 610-756-7892.

Also if anyone is interested in joining in the Local Shared Outreach Group, contact Sharon C. Billger at 610-682-7038. They are always looking to gain new members and thus serve more of God's people in our local area.

TRUNK OR TREAT: October 17 is the Annual Trunk or Treat at the Kempton Community Center. If you have any children or grandchildren, this is an opportunity for them to participate in a safe trick or treat environment.

CHILI COOK-OFF: New Bethel Church and Iron Talon Farm will host a Chili Cook-off and party at the farm on New Bethel Church Road, on Saturday, October 24 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Iron Talon Farm has launched a program to rent cabins on their beautiful property to provide peace and rejuvenation for first responders. Come for food, fun, fellowship and to honor our first responders.

GRANT WRITING PROJECT: Are you interested in grant seeking? Would you like to learn basic proposal writing skills to benefit New Bethel and other nonprofit organizations of interest to you? Volunteers are needed to assist the Pastor with a grant writing project. On Tuesday, an informational meeting will be held at 6:00 PM in the Schoolhouse. Please feel free to invite others to attend.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY BY & FOR LAY PEOPLE: Bible Study sessions will be resuming this week on Wednesday mornings. If you would like to attend they are held from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Come and join in – all are welcome!

PASTORAL CARE: When you are in need of pastoral care, please have a family member contact Pastor Peiffer at 570.778.1245 or call the church at 610.756.6589. If you are in the Lehigh Valley Hospital, please note that they will be phasing out the church code option.



ALBANY TOWNSHIP PANTRY

First Tuesday of each month - 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Kempton Community Center

Food pantry and social services are open to Albany Township residents and families in need. Resources are also available for those who are struggling with financial challenges (ex. Utility bills) or need help applying for food or medical assistance. If you have any questions about your options, contact Friend, Inc. at 610-683-9011.

FRIEND, INC. Food Pantry

During these times let us not forget those less fortunate than we are. If you are able, please consider donating any nonperishable items. For the month of October we will be collecting pasta and items served with a pasta meal.

In addition to food items, please consider donating personal items such as shampoo, soap, etc. and household items (laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc.). These last items are things that we often overlook.

Friend, Inc. also collects pet food to help families in need provide for their pets. These items will be distributed by Friend, Inc.

Thank You All For Your Generosity!